



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S SEARCH FOR A NEW CHANCELLOR

The immediate resignation of Chancellor Joseph I. Castro on Thursday, February 17th means that the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees will embark upon one of its most important duties: the identification and selection of a new Chancellor.

With only one woman having served as Chancellor of the CSU in its long history, the time is now for the CSU Board of Trustees to select a woman who can help write the next phase of the CSU story. With its deep bench of outstanding CSU campus presidents—including eleven women—and talented women who serve as college leaders across California and our nation, the CSU Trustees are starting this search with a wealth of options that should yield a Chancellor who inspires our students, engages our faculty, has a deep understanding of California and a proven track record of improving racial and gender equity. We ask the Trustees to ensure the next Chancellor of the CSU be an unapologetic advocate for racial and gender equity in higher education and has a vision for supporting student success across each campus.

As a nationally recognized model for economic mobility for its students and as a key economic driver for the State of California, the CSU is at a critical moment in its history as it works to address the ongoing challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, higher education enrollment losses, [serious capacity constraints](#), disturbing incidents and responses to workplace sexual harassment and the persistent racial equity gaps in college access and graduation rates. As the largest institution conferring baccalaureate degrees in the state, the CSU must be at the forefront of responding to these challenges and leading with student success and well-being first and foremost.

The next Chancellor of the CSU will need to continue the work of an ambitious, racial-equity-focused effort to close persistent gaps in access and completion, including ensuring the success of the [Graduation Initiative 2025](#) to close gaps in completion once and for all. We need a Chancellor committed to the CSU being an accessible and equitable institution that champions access for first-year and [transfer students](#) through the admissions, enrollment to graduation process.

As the CSU Board of Trustees embarks upon this new Chancellor search, we urge them to select a Chancellor that:

- Is passionate about the power that higher education has to transform students' lives and contribute to a strong California economy.
- Has experience and a plan of action for closing systemic racial, ethnic and gender equity gaps in higher education access and graduation.
- Has a commitment and clear vision for [ensuring the student body, faculty and administrators reflect the racial/ethnic, gender and income diversity of Californians](#).
- Is committed to ensuring that the University is accessible to the increasing number of California students seeking a bachelor's degree, including transfer students from our community colleges.

- Has a demonstrated record of courage and innovation in leading institutional change and removing unnecessary obstacles that prevent students from succeeding.
- Has a plan for addressing the challenges faced by students and our institutions amid the pandemic and is creative and innovative at exploring opportunities to reengage students that have dropped out or stopped out and serving students who work and raise children.
- Has a demonstrated commitment to providing academic supports and solutions that are student-centered and evidence-based.
- Is an advocate for data transparency and committed to using disaggregated data by race/ethnicity and income to advance and assess all policies and practices for equity.
- Is an experienced collaborative leader committed to working with K-12, community colleges, the University of California and our private/independent universities, as well as external stakeholders, including civil rights, community and business organizations.
- Has a record and commitment to operating in an open and transparent fashion with students, the legislature, and the public.

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The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit www.CollegeCampaign.org, like us on Facebook at [/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign), and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CollegeOpp) at @CollegeOpp.